

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

December 30, 2008; 4:15PM
General Services Department
Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility
311 North State Street

Meeting Minutes

Present: Councilor Keith Nyhan, Chair, Councilor Dick Lemieux, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Bill Stetson, Gregg Banks, Melanie Doiron,

Staff: Councilor Mark Coen, Tom Aspell, Jim Howard, Chip Chesley, Bob McManus, Vanessa Ghiden, Pat Winn

Excused: Councilor Liz Blanchard, Councilor Rob Werner, Mike Russell, Jeff Myers; Paula Mattis

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM by Councilor Nyhan.

General

Chip noted that he received a telephone message from Councilor Blanchard earlier in the day advising she would not be able to make today's meeting due to illness. He also noted that Councilor Werner was out of Town until Friday but would be checking in upon his return; Mike Russell had advised that he would not be able to make the meeting due to a family commitment; Jeff Meyers is on vacation with his family this week; and Paula Mattis had a work commitment.

Review and Approval of Minutes of December 9th

The minutes of December 9th were reviewed. Councilor Lemieux moved to approve the minutes; Councilor Keach seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Councilor Nyhan noted that he has requested staff to distribute meeting minutes in advance of the meeting.

Meeting Notes of December 18

Notes from the meeting of December 18 were distributed. Councilor Keach noted it wasn't an official meeting since a quorum was not present; however, he requested General Services' staff to prepare notes summarizing the discussions of the meeting.

Pay-As-You-Throw Discussions

Councilor Lemieux inquired if the cost components discussed during the December 11 meeting had been verified by City staff. Chip reviewed the various components and noted that staff has not completed confirming all of the numbers. Councilor Nyhan noted that he had particular concerns about the \$106 that is noted to be generated by the property tax. Chip reviewed the revenue subsidy and noted that he thought the \$89 is overstated. Councilor Lemieux suggested the cost analysis should also include homes of higher and lower value than the average household. He noted that Pay-As-You-Throw is financially less attractive to residences with lower valuations and high solid waste volumes, and is more financially attractive to residences with higher values and low solid waste volumes. Other members concurred. Councilor Coen noted that recycling costs are proposed to be paid by property taxes and noted that they are not really “free”. Councilor Nyhan agreed. Committee members noted that Pay-As-You-Throw generates sufficient revenues for solid waste collection and disposal so that property tax revenues could be used to provide weekly recycling for all residents.

Councilor Lemieux inquired about the revenues derived through recycling and how the current recycling market may impact the current bid. Chip noted that the recycling market, like most other commodity markets, is currently depressed. Bob McManus noted that the current draft RFP contemplates some revenue sharing based upon recycling index values. It was also noted that fuel prices have dropped significantly.

Correspondence from Stephen Lewis, Royal Garden Apartments

Chip passed out a copy of a correspondence from Stephen Lewis who resides in Royal Garden Apartments presenting several suggestions to increase recycling volumes in the City. Chip noted that this correspondence is listed as a Referral to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee on the draft January City Council agenda.

The committee requested staff to prepare a response to Mr. Lewis indicating that they have been evaluating alternatives to the City’s solid waste program, including increasing recycling volumes, for the Chair’s review.

January 5 Community Forum

The committee reviewed and revised a proposed agenda for the upcoming community forum. The general outline is:

1. Introduction – Councilor Lemieux
2. Community Finances – Mayor Bouley
3. Solid Waste Perfect Storm – General Services Staff
4. Community Decision Points – Councilor Nyhan

5. PAYT Proposal – Councilor Nyhan
6. How PAYT works – General Services Staff
7. Questions & Answers

Melanie suggested distributing cards at the meeting for the public to write down there questions. She noted some people may not feel comfortable coming forward with their questions. Committee members suggested the same could be used for comments. It was agreed that two color papers, one for questions and the other for comments, should be made available to the public. Councilor Lemieux noted that the purpose of the Community Forum is to answer questions and that residents would have an opportunity to voice their concerns at the Council's public hearing in February.

Next Meeting

Councilor Nyhan suggested the committee meet on January 6 at 4:15 PM, the day after the Community Forum, to discuss preparation of the committee's report. The committee agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.